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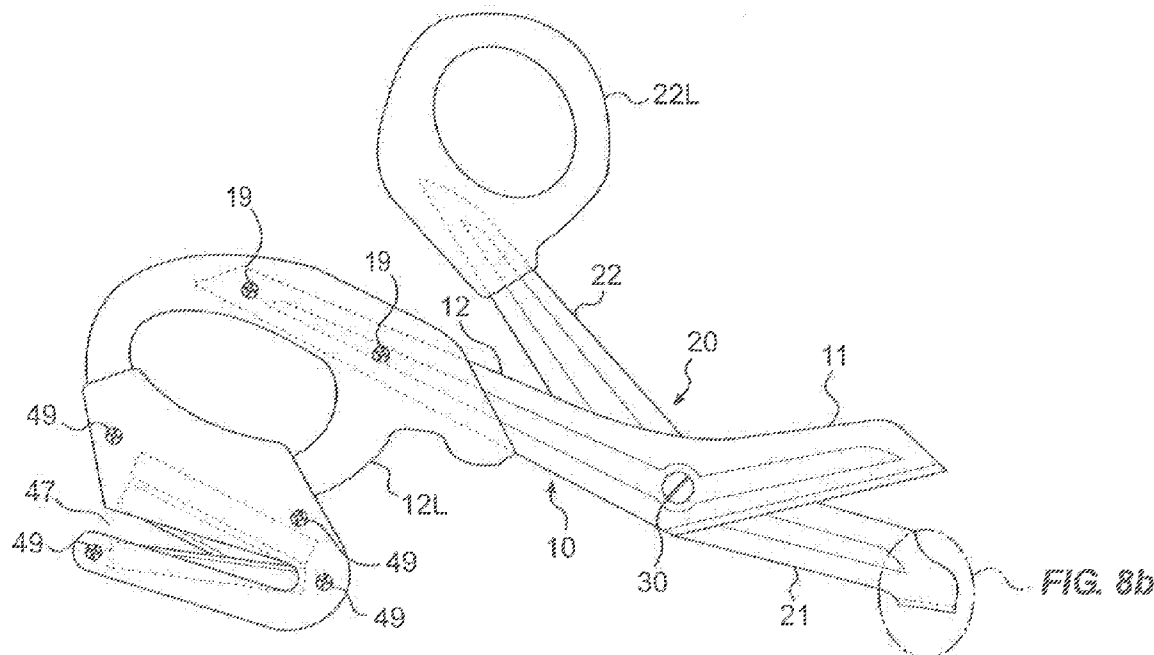
(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
SMITH(10) **Pub. No.: US 2012/0297549 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 29, 2012**(54) **MULTIPURPOSE SHEARS****Publication Classification**(75) Inventor: **Christopher SMITH**, Suffolk, VA
(US)(51) **Int. Cl.**
B26B 13/22 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** 7/144; 30/146(73) Assignee: **RIP SHEARS, LLC**, Virginia
Beach, VA (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**(21) Appl. No.: **13/570,262**(22) Filed: **Aug. 9, 2012**

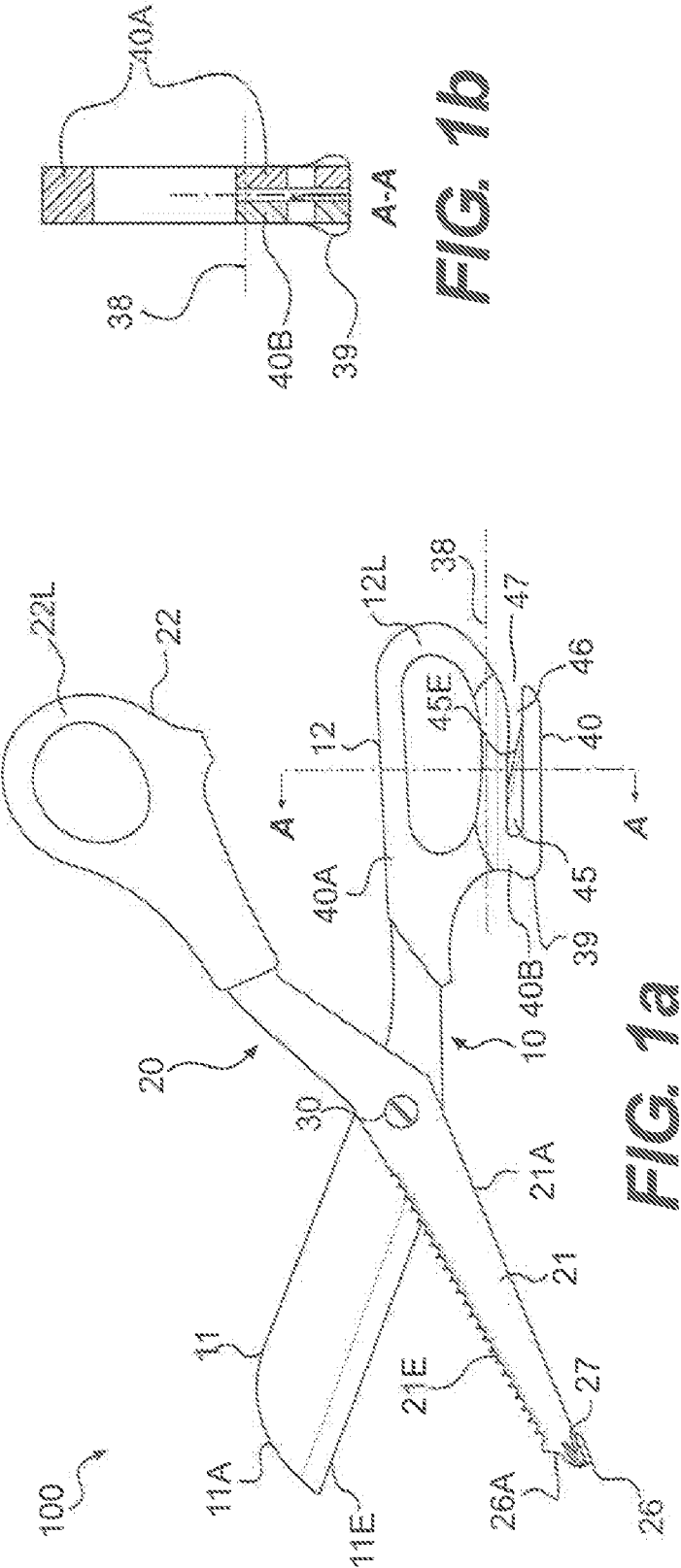
Multi-purpose shears have a distal end and an opposing proximal end. The shears include a first elongated member having a first shearing end and a first gripping end opposed to the first shearing end. The first gripping end is in contact with a user's hand. The shears include a second elongated member with a second shearing end and a second gripping end opposed to the second shearing end. The second gripping end is in contact with the user's hand. The first and second elongated members are coupled to one another by a coupling element at a pivot location, wherein the first and second shearing ends move toward or away from one another in response to actuation by the user. The shears include a bladed tool configured to have an insertion slot that is generally oriented along an axis, wherein the bladed tool includes a blade within the insertion slot.

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Division of application No. 13/029,537, filed on Feb. 17, 2011, Continuation-in-part of application No. 12/138,750, filed on Jun. 13, 2008, now abandoned.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/937,220, filed on Jun. 26, 2007.





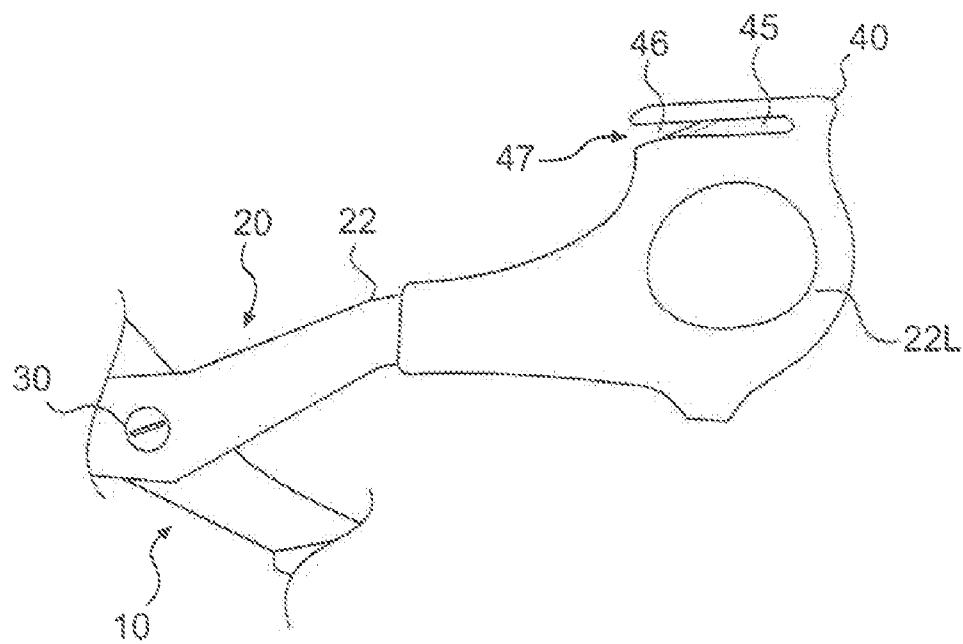


FIG. 2a

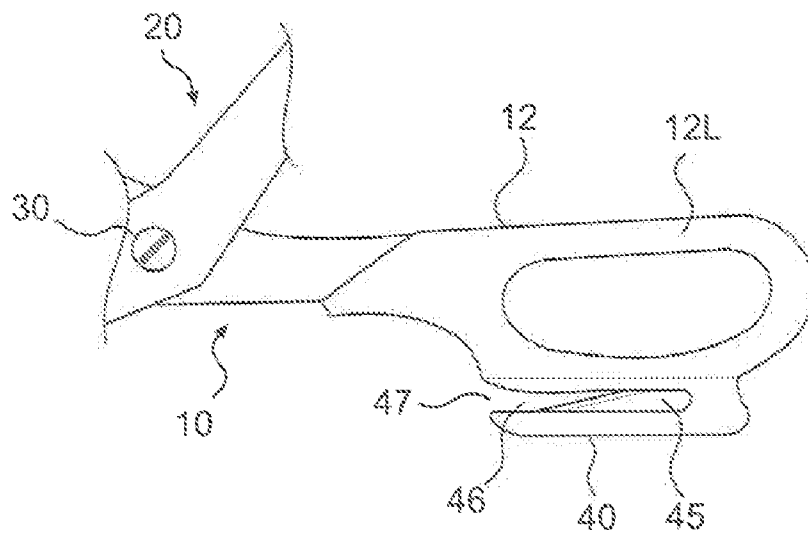


FIG. 2b

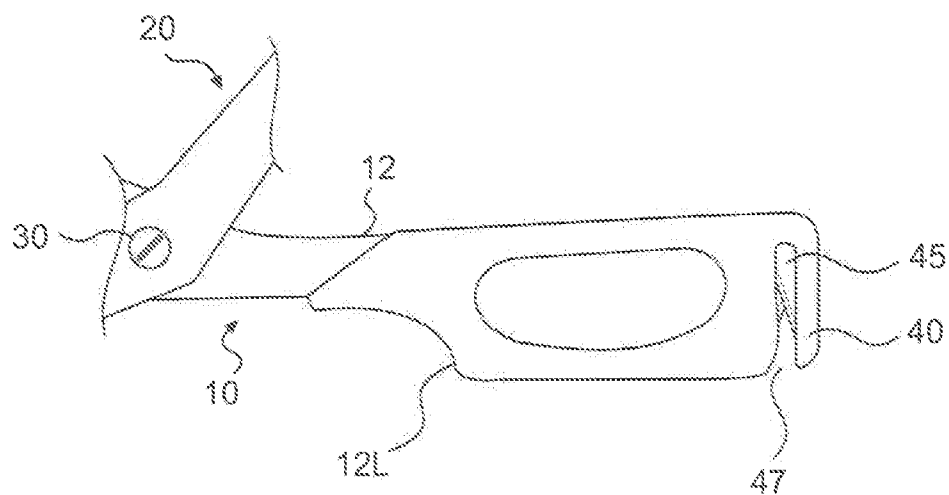


FIG. 3

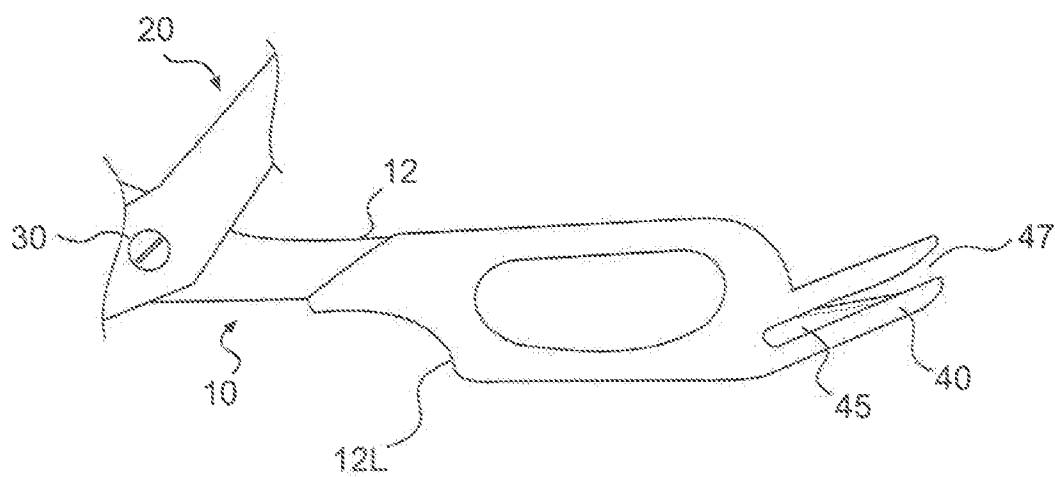


FIG. 4

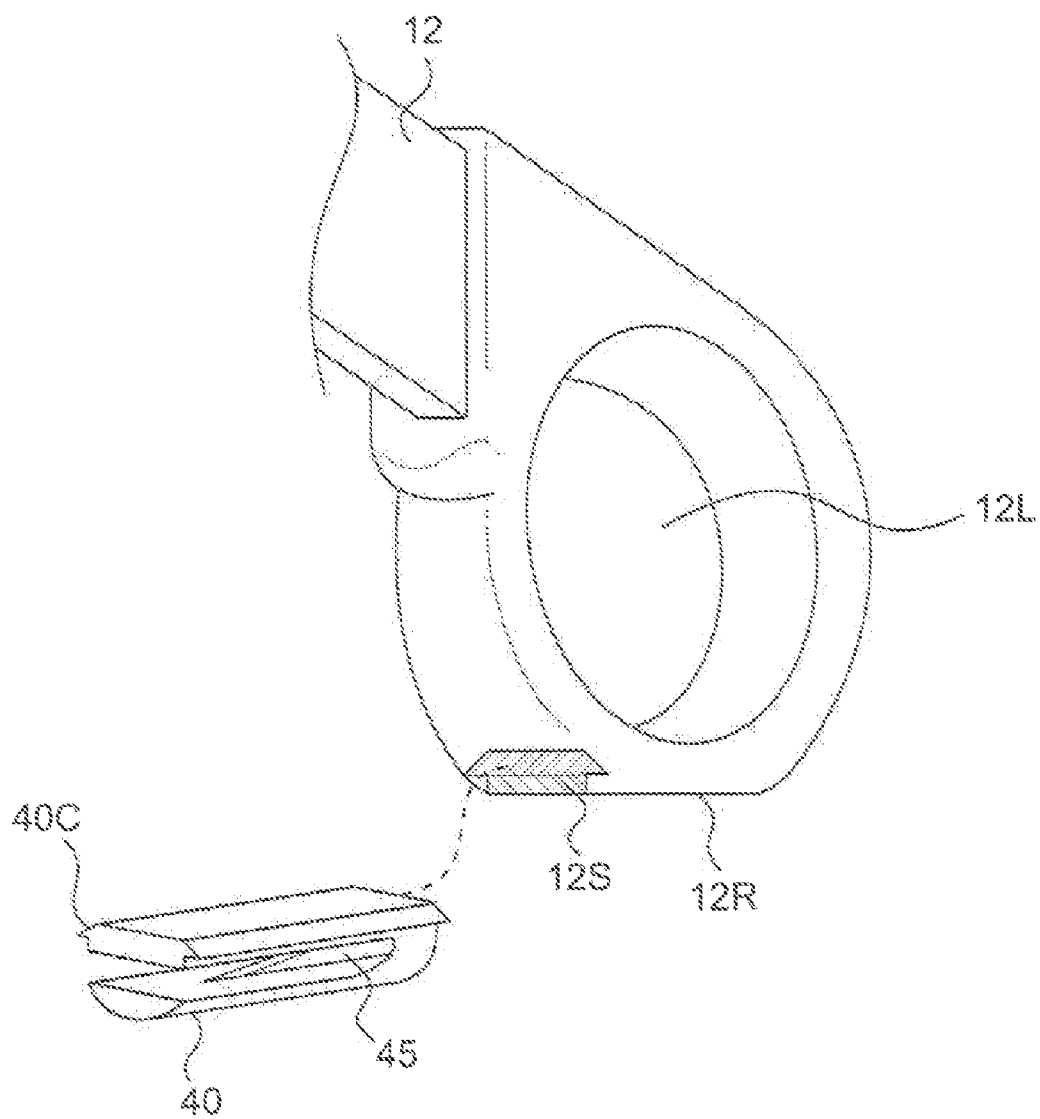


FIG. 5

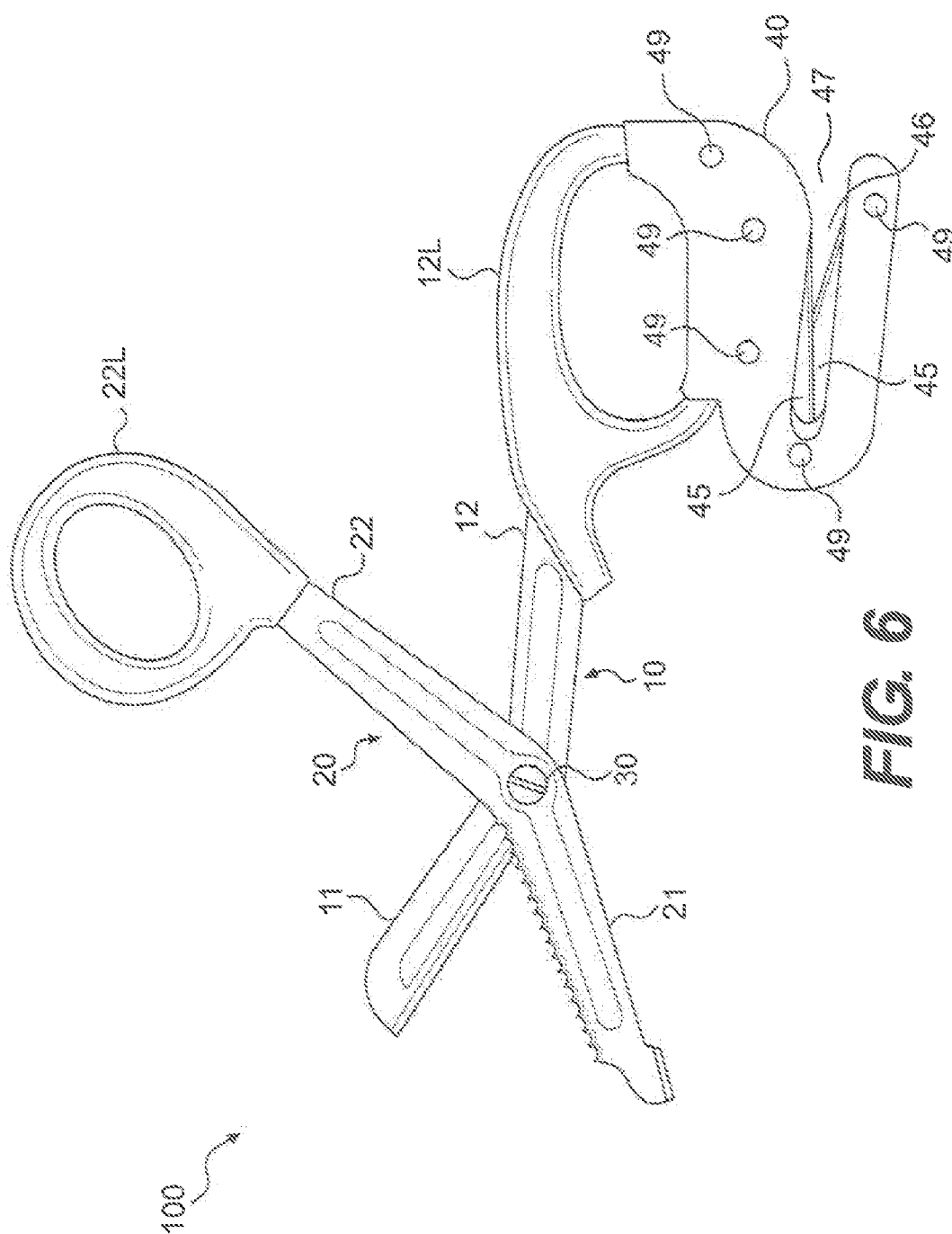


FIG. 6

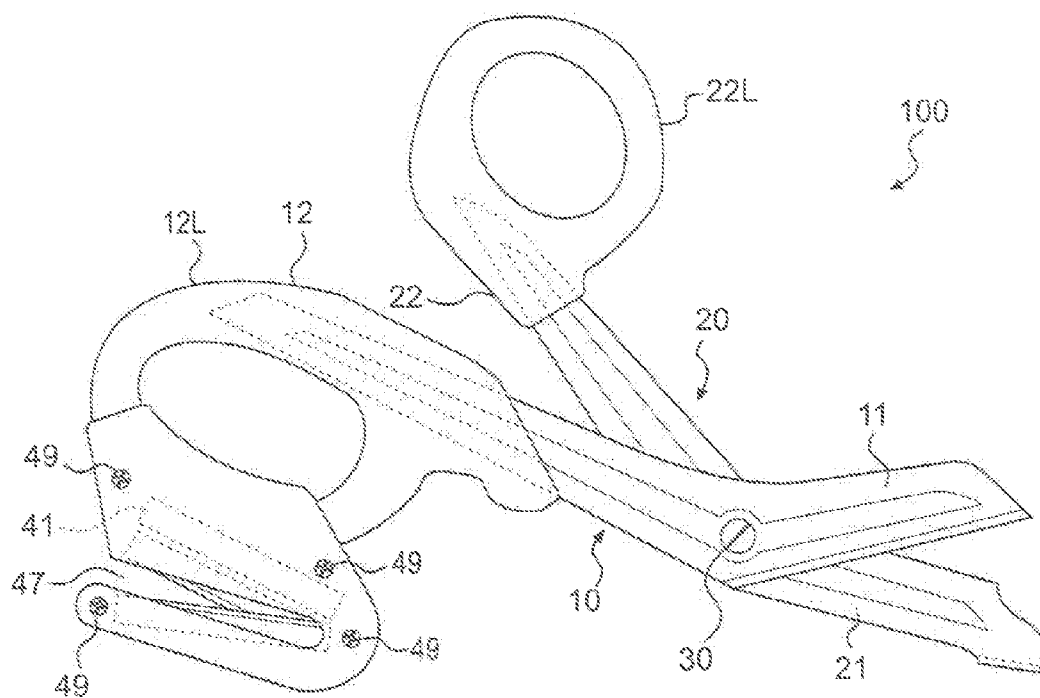


FIG. 7a

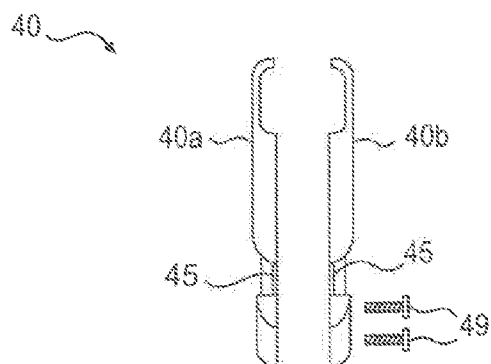


FIG. 7b

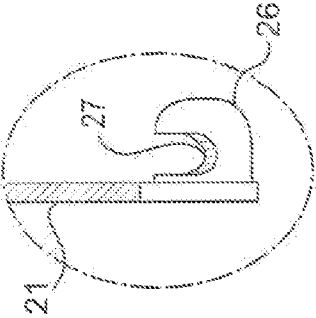


FIG. 8b

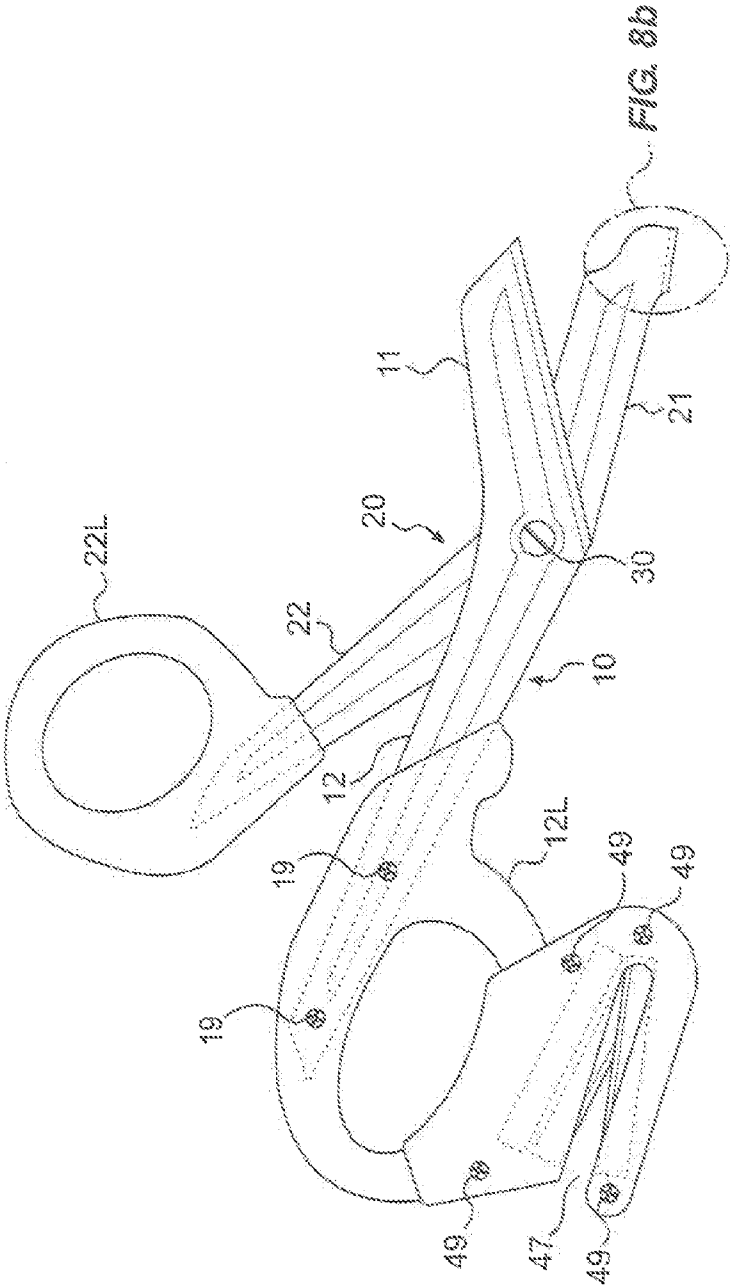
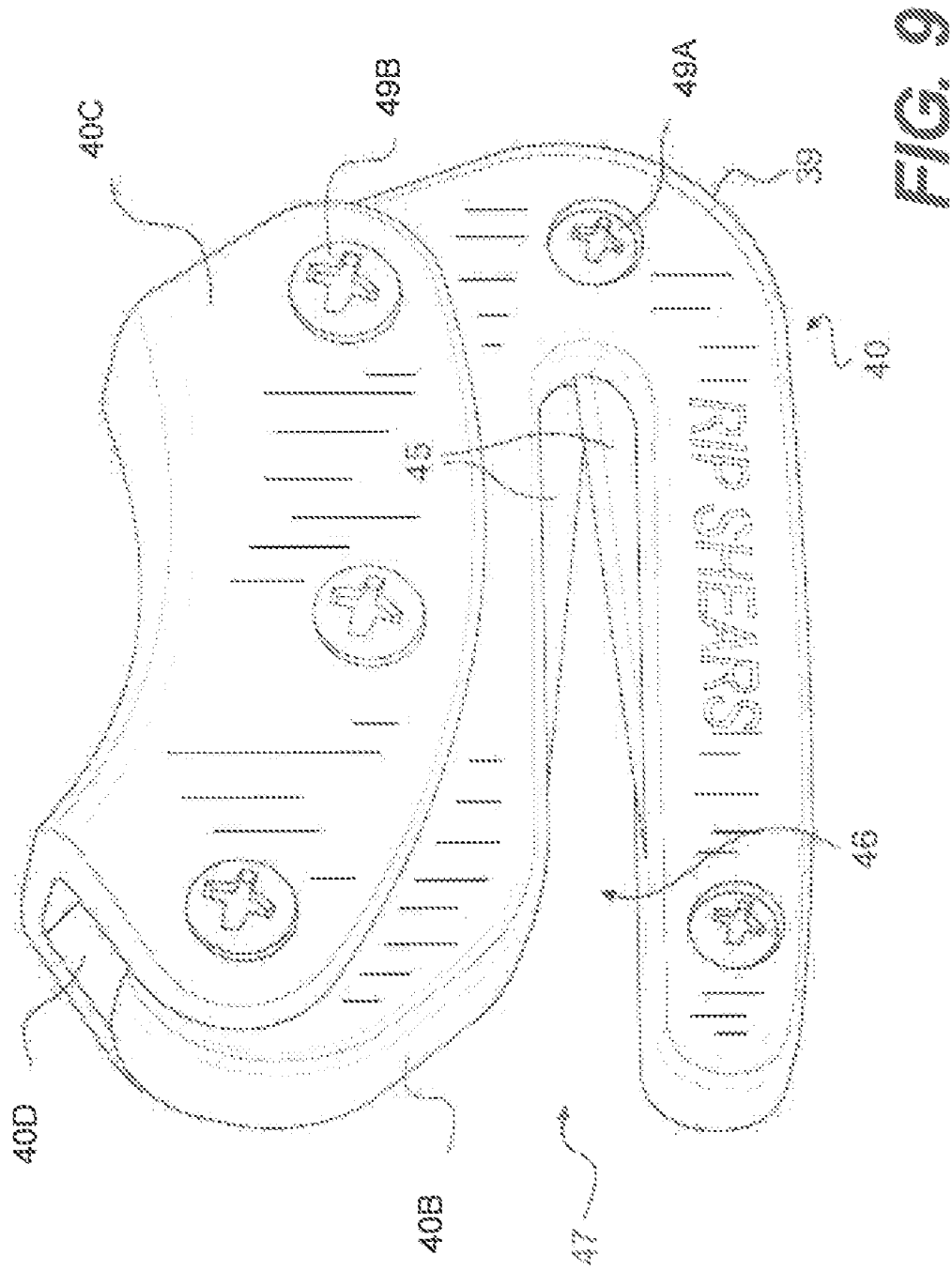


FIG. 8a



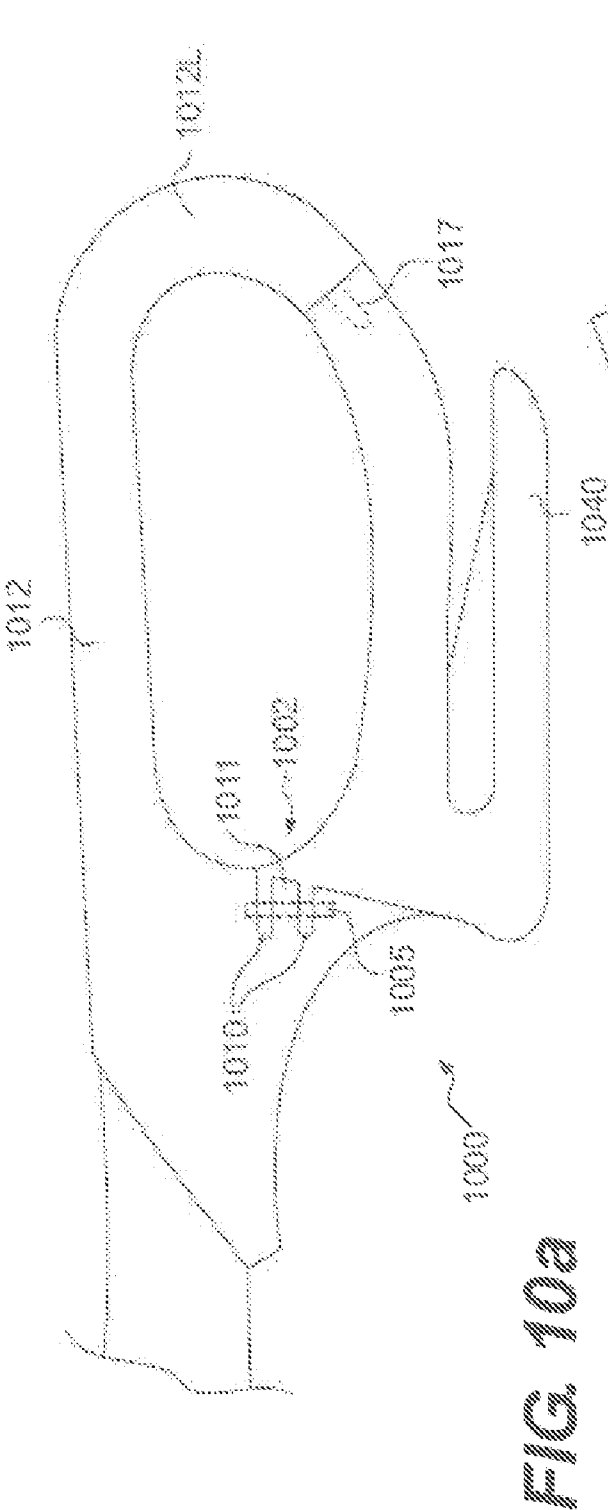


FIG. 10a

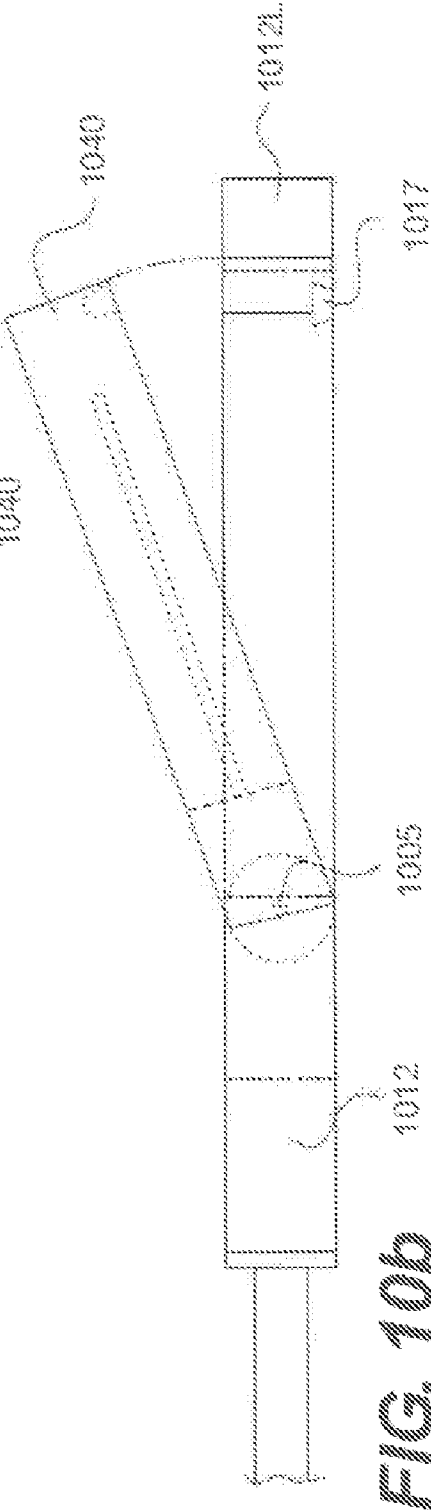
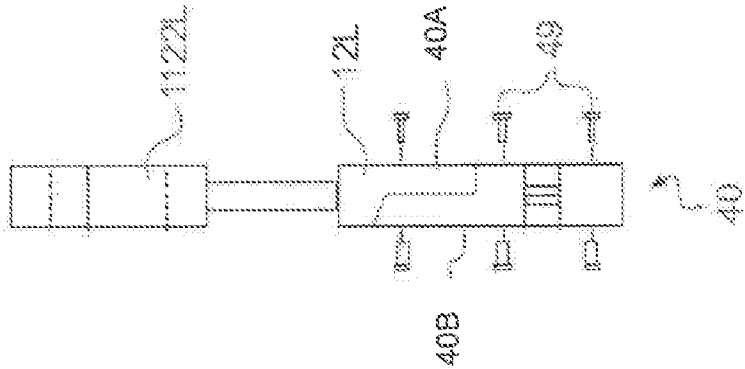
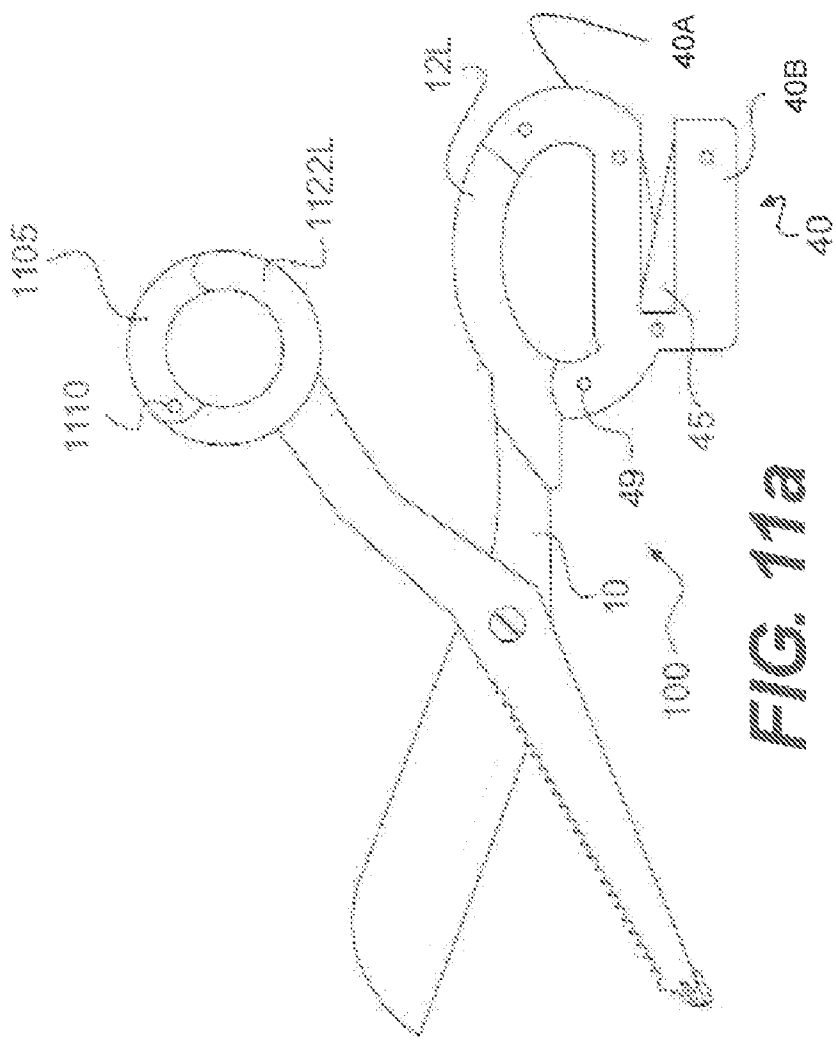


FIG. 10b



MULTIPURPOSE SHEARS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a divisional application of co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/029,537, filed Feb. 17, 2011 and entitled, "MULTIPURPOSE SHEARS", which is a continuation-in-part application of then co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/138,750, filed Jun. 13, 2008 and entitled "MULTIPURPOSE SHEARS", whereby U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/138,750 claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/937,220, filed on Jun. 26, 2007, and entitled "TRAUMA SHEARS", all of which are commonly owned.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates to shears serving multiple purposes. In particular, the present disclosure relates to shears having an edge tool suitable for use in combat situations, critical care acute medical use or medical traumas requiring the removal of outerwear in a rapid manner.

[0003] Shears are a form of hand-held cutting tool, which are commonly used to cut material, paper, fabric, etc. The shears include a pair of crossing arms or blades that are pivotally mounted. One end of each arm has a shearing edge while the other end typically includes a loop shaped hand grip. The arms are mounted so that the shearing edges face each other inwardly. The pivot forms a fulcrum by which operation of the hand grips leverages the blades to shear the fabric or other materials.

[0004] Trauma shears are used to cut away a person's clothing to provide access for medical treatment. This tool is typically strong and durable, and is intended to shear through hems, pockets, layered fabric, straps, thick plackets, etc. Although specialization has led to refinement of a strong design capable of cutting a variety of tough materials, it has also limited the scope of applicability of such shears.

[0005] In some cases, for example, the speed of cutting may be more important than the strength of the shearing effect. The repetitive snipping involved in hand shearing can be time consuming. The blades of trauma shears and their strong design may not cut through certain sheet fabrics as quickly as required. The requirement for toughness in some shears may also lead to the use of durable but duller blades, which can be ineffective or inefficient when used to slice fabric. Further, the requirement that the blades of trauma shears be suitable for use adjacent to a person's skin when underneath clothing means that the blade ends are often short or limited beyond the pivot point. This limited length can further increase the time of cutting.

[0006] One approach to this problem has been for medical personnel to carry or store multiple types of shears, scissors, or knives. Trauma shears may be used for making an initial cut or cutting through seams and thick layers, while a different slicing or cutting tool might be used for cutting sheets of lighter material. Of course, time is lost while one tool is stored or set aside and the other tool is located and applied to the fabric. Some have attempted to solve such a problem by creating multi-function hand tools as may be seen in U.S. Pat. No. 6,698,049, which is somewhat configured like a modified pocket knife. Even with this approach, medical personnel must still pause from cutting in order to reconfigure the multi-function tool to access a different device.

[0007] Beyond a clear application for use in medical trauma or emergency services, as described above, it is contemplated that a device resolving these problems could have beneficial application for a variety of other activities, such as outdoor sports (e.g., fishing, hunting, climbing, skydiving, etc.), upholstery and other textile work, clothing assembly, crafts, etc.

[0008] Thus, it would be desirable to have multi-purpose shears capable of quickly slicing sheet fabric as well as snipping through tough fabric. Of course, such a design should be safe and carry a low risk of cutting the user or any possible patient.

SUMMARY

[0009] The present disclosure describes a pair of multi-purpose trauma shears that include structure that enables rapid and effective cutting, shearing and rending of woven fabric.

[0010] In an aspect, multi-purpose shears having a distal end and an opposing proximal end to the user is disclosed. The shears comprise a first elongated member having a first shearing end and a first gripping end opposed to the first shearing end, wherein the first gripping end is configured to be in contact with a user's hand. The shears include a second elongated member with a second shearing end and a second gripping end that is opposed to the second shearing end. The second gripping end is configured to be in contact with the user's hand. The first and second elongated members are coupled to one another by a coupling element at a pivot location. Accordingly, the first and second shearing ends move away from one another about the pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends away from another about the pivot location, and the first and second shearing ends move toward one another about the pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends toward one another about the pivot location. The shears include a bladed tool that is coupled to the first elongated member at a location between the first shearing end and the first gripping end. The bladed tool is configured to have an insertion slot that is generally oriented along an axis, wherein the bladed tool includes a blade within the insertion slot.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1a illustrates a side view of multipurpose shears in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 1b illustrates a detailed view of the multipurpose shears in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0013] FIGS. 2a and 2b depict aspects of the multipurpose shears in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0014] FIG. 3 depicts an aspect of the multipurpose shears in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0015] FIG. 4 depicts an aspect of the multipurpose shears in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0016] FIG. 5 depicts an aspect of the multipurpose shears having a detachably mounted housing in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0017] FIG. 6 depicts an aspect of the multipurpose shears with a detachably mounted housing in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0018] FIG. 7a depicts an aspect of the multipurpose shears with a detachably mounted housing in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0019] FIG. 7b depicts a proximal view of the housing of the multipurpose shears in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0020] FIG. 8a depicts a side view of an aspect of the multipurpose shears in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0021] FIG. 8b is a detailed view of an end of the multipurpose shears in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0022] FIG. 9 is an isometric view an aspect of the housing of the multipurpose shears in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0023] FIG. 10a is a view of an aspect of the multipurpose shears with a pivotable U-shaped housing in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0024] FIG. 10b is a view of an aspect of the multipurpose shears with a pivotable U-shaped housing in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0025] FIG. 11a is a view of the multipurpose shears with an inwardly pivotable loop section in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0026] FIG. 11b is an end view of a partial over-molded loop and detachable U-shape housing in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0027] The present disclosure is directed to a pair of multipurpose shears that have an additional structure to enable a rapid, safe, and effective rending of both sheet fabric and tough or layered fabric. By definition the rending of a fabric is, “to tear or be torn violently” (Wordnetweb/Princeton.edu). “To separate into parts with force or sudden violence; to tear asunder” (1913 Webster/www.Dictionary.net). Clearly rending is without regards to measurements, lines and secondary operations, such as sewing or rejoining the pieces of fabric.

[0028] In reference to FIGS. 1a-8, shears 100 may be viewed as having a first elongated member 10 or blade and second elongated member 20 or blade. First member 10 includes a first shearing end 11 and first gripping end 12 or handle, while second member includes corresponding second shearing end 21 and second gripping end 22 or handle.

[0029] With initial reference to FIG. 1a, for the purposes of this description, the term “distal” or distally refers generally to a direction away or more distant from a user of the shears 100, while the term “proximal” or proximally refers to a direction toward or more near to a user of the shears 100, when a user is cutting rending fabric. Thus, the first elongated member 10 with a distal first shearing end 11 and proximal first gripping end 12, may be distinguished by a first shearing end 11 having a downwardly facing shearing edge 11E: its first gripping end 12 defines a first loop 12L adapted to receive one or more fingers. The first shearing edge 11 has a radius about the height of the first elongated member 10 at the first shearing edge 11, where if the height of the elongated member 10 is about 15 mm then the radius is about 15 mm. Similarly, in asymmetric fashion, second elongated member 20 with a distal second shearing end 21 and a proximal second gripping end 22, may be distinguished by a second, shearing end 21 having an upwardly facing shearing edge 21E; its second gripping end 22 defines a second loop 22L adapted to receive a thumb. The distal second elongated member 21 also

includes a lift lip 26 perpendicular and substantially adjacent to the second elongated member 21 on a back edge 21b the lift lip 26 may have a band cutter edge 27 that is recessed. Shearing edge 11E and/or 21E may have an edge that is either continuous or discontinuous, such as a serrated edge. This configuration supports right handed use; the shears 100 of the present invention should be construed as extended to configurations supporting left handed use as well.

[0030] Elongated members 10, 20 are mounted together at pivot 30 to shear or snip fabric. Thus, this pivot 30 is located between the first shearing end 11 and the first gripping end 12 of the first member 10, and connects the first member 10 to the second member 20 at a corresponding point between the second shearing end 21 and the second gripping end 22 of the second member 20. Thus, for this embodiment the elongated members 10, 20 are pivotally mounted in an adjacent, complementary, and crossing manner so that the first shearing end 11 of first elongated member 10 is capable of pivoting higher than the second shearing end 21 of the second elongated member 20. Conversely, the first gripping end 12 of the first elongated member 10 is lower than the second gripping end 22 of the second elongated member 20. The shearing edge 11E of the first elongated member 10 is adjacent and opposing the shearing edge 21E of second elongated member 20. In this way, opening the gripping ends 12, 22 relative to each, other opens the shearing ends 11, 21 away from each other in an opposing manner and closing the gripping ends 12, 22 relative to each other closes the shearing ends 11, 21 in an adjacent manner.

[0031] For this embodiment, first elongated member 10 may be considered as an upper member, for convention of reference, to the extent that its first shearing end 11 pivots within an upper relative area; conversely, second elongated, member 20 may be considered a lower member as its second shearing end 21 pivots within a lower relative area. However, the present invention should be construed as also encompassing embodiments in which first and second members 10, 20 may rest substantially adjacent to each other when trauma shears are in a fully closed position. Gripping end 12 and gripping end 22 may contact each other in the closed position. Gripping end 12 and 22 may be constructed of a tilted polymer, more specifically a polymer of, but not limited to, polycarbonate, ABS or polypropylene with a fiberglass filler (GF) of 0-15 percent.

[0032] The elongated first and second elongated, members 10, 20 may preferably, though not necessarily, be angled obtusely at corresponding points near the pivot 30 to enable operation, of the shears 100 while the second elongated member 20 is proximate to a flat surface, such as a table or the skin of a patient (not shown) for embodiments of shears 100 used as trauma shears. In other words, this allows operation of the shears 100 with the second shearing end 21 of the second elongated member 20 held proximate or against the surface; the second shearing end 21 of lower second elongated member 20 may be slid underneath fabric or clothing while the upper first elongated member 10 is cycled to shear or snip the material or clothing. The second shearing end 21 also has a lift lip 26 that operates in conjunction with the blunt tip 26a that curves upward to lift the clothing to minimize impaling of a patient (FIG. 8b). Thus, in some types of operation, the elongated members 10, 20 form a mouth that can open and close by motion of the upper first elongated member 10 relative to second elongated member 20. An effective angle for embodiments of shears 100 as trauma shears is 150 degrees. How-

ever, a wide variety of obtuse angles may be used, taking into consideration the application, desired leverage, wrist angle, freedom of movement relative to any surface, and freedom of operation.

[0033] With reference to FIG. 1a, optionally the second shearing end 21 of the lower second elongated member 20 may have a blunt tip, and also optionally may include a lift lip 26 that can be used to lift material or clothing into the mouth of the shears 100 formed by the distal shearing ends 11, 21. For embodiments of shears 100 used in trauma, bluntness may prevent inadvertent scratching or puncturing of a patient. The lift lip 26 may optionally include a recessed cutting edge 27 that may be used in a pulling fashion to remove or cut strings, threads, or thin hospital-type identification bands.

[0034] As may be seen in FIG. 1a, one or both of the distal shearing ends 11, 21 may be serrated to improve the grip on material or cloth during snipping. Given the value of such shears 100 during trauma or medical response, preferably such embodiments of shears 100 may be manufactured from durable and high quality materials, such as stainless steel, high carbon steel, ceramic, titanium or other composite material or coating at least for the distal shearing ends 11, 21.

[0035] As noted above, the shears 100 of the present invention may be adapted for use with, either the right or the left hand, as may be desired. Such adaptation from a right hand to the left generally involves a shift of asymmetric features to accommodate the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

[0036] Another aspect is a generally U-shaped housing 40 positioned on one of gripping ends 12, 22, at the point taming loops 12L or 22L. FIGS. 1a-11b depicts a variety of embodiments. With reference to FIG. 1a, U-shaped housing 40 defines an insertion slot 46 defining an opening 47 at one end and at least one blade 45 having a cutting edge 45E mounted, within U-shaped housing 40. The at least one blade 45 is positioned within the U-shaped housing 40 so as to present a cutting edge 45E obliquely to the insertion slot 46, so as to cut or slice material inserted into the insertion slot 46. The insertion slot 46 is generally configured in a direction that permits ergonomic handling of the shears 100 for both snipping (i.e., using distal shearing ends 11, 21) and for rending of fabric (i.e., using blade 45). For example, one embodiment of the shears 100 presents opening 47 facing in the proximal direction, relative to the first and second elongated members 10, 20, so that an operator may snip in one direction and rend in the reverse direction. Thus, the insertion slot 46 can be oriented substantially tangentially to the longitudinal axis 38 of loops 12L or 22L, as applicable. The U-shaped member 40 is shaped to provide a percussive surface 39 substantially opposite the opening of the insertion slot 47 for testing hypo or hyper resonance of the abdominal or chest cavities or for neurological testing as a reflex hammer when used in conjunction with the user grasping the shears 100 in a closed position, positioning a finger on the lifting lip 26 of the elongate members 21, 11 and pivotably moving the loops 22L, 12L and U-shaped housing 40 in a lateral motion such that the U-shaped housing 40 percussive surface 39 strikes the area to be percussed and/or the deep tendon area. The percussive surface 39 is about 6 mm to about 10 mm thick.

[0037] The U-shaped housing 40 may be positioned relative to a respective one of the gripping ends 12, 22, so as to orient the insertion slot 46 at an angle ranging anywhere from parallel with the mounting gripping end 12 or 22, with the opening 47 facing in the distal direction, to perpendicular with the mounting gripping end 12 or 22 with the opening 47

facing downwardly. Preferably, though not necessarily, for embodiments of shears 100 used as trauma shears, U-shaped housing 40 is mounted on first gripping end 12 and may be rotated around the longitudinal axis 38 of loop 12L at a desired rotational position from about 0 degrees+/-45 degrees. In another example, the U-shaped housing 40 may be positioned relative to the mounting gripping end 12 or 22 so as to orient the insertion slot 46 at an angle ranging from parallel with the shearing ends 11 or 21 with the opening 47 racing in the proximal direction to perpendicular with the mounting gripping end 12 or 22 with the opening 47 facing upwardly. FIG. 1a depicts shears 100 with U-shaped housing 40 mounted on first gripping end 12 at first loop 12L, with opening 47 facing proximally and insertion slot 46 somewhat parallel to first gripping end 12. For embodiments of shears 100 used as trauma shears, the Applicant has discovered this configuration to be effective, easy to use, and quick to operate. Shears 100 may also include either gripping members 12L and 22L including the U-shaped member 40 and at least one blade 45 molded as a continuous, single piece construction.

[0038] FIG. 1b is an end view of the U-shaped housing 40 showing a longitudinal split that defines a loop section 40A and a detachable section 40B. Loop section 40A is an integral part of grip 12, 22. Detachable section 40B allows for access to the blade(s) 45 for replacement. Also shown is a widened percussive surface 39. Detachable section 40B when properly oriented is removably secured to loop section 40A by one or more fasteners.

[0039] FIGS. 2a and 2b depict shears 100 with the orientation of U-shaped housing 40 reversed so that opening 47 faces distally. In FIG. 2a, U-shaped housing 40 is positioned on second loop 22L of elongated member 20. FIG. 2b depicts U-shaped housing 40 positioned on first loop 12L of elongated member 10. FIG. 3 depicts shears 100 with a different orientation such that opening 47 facing downwardly which, similarly, could be reversed such that opening 47 would face upwardly (not shown). Optionally, as also shown in FIG. 3, is an embodiment of shears 100 in which positioned within U-shaped housing 40 is at least one blade 45 comprising two blades 45. Such an embodiment provides enhanced cutting or slicing effect. FIG. 4 depicts an embodiment of shears 100 in which U-shaped housing 40 is mounted on first gripping end 12 in a manner so that insertion slot 46 is somewhat parallel to first gripping end 12, but configured differently from the embodiment of FIG. 1.

[0040] Previous figures have shown U-shaped housing 40 integrated into one of first and second loop 12L or 22L. Optionally, as shown, in FIG. 5, the U-shaped housing 40 may be mounted detachably or removably on one of mounting gripping ends 12 or 22 to enable removal of the U-shaped housing 40; in some embodiments, this may enable replacement of the at least one blade 45 positioned within the U-shaped housing 40, or complete replacement of U-shaped housing 40. In this embodiment, shears 100 are shown with first gripping end 12 having receiving structure 12R, with outwardly directed receiving surfaces 12S and replaceable U-shaped housing 40 having projecting connecting surfaces 40C that detachably mate with receiving surfaces 12S of receiving structure 12R. Conversely, receiving structure 12R might have inwardly projecting surfaces 12S (not shown) and U-shaped housing 40 might have inwardly directed connecting surfaces 40C for mating.

[0041] Other detachable structures may be appropriate for other embodiments of shears 100. For example, shears 100 shown in FIGS. 6 and 7a employ housing fasteners 49 for mounting a longitudinally split U-shaped housing 40 (i.e., split into two pieces such as loop section 40A and detachable section 40B as shown in the proximal, view of FIG. 7b) onto first loop 12L of first gripping end 12. In this case, U-shaped housing 40 may be adapted to surround a portion of the first loop 12L. Optionally, such a longitudinally split configuration of U-shaped housing 40 enables the definition of storage compartment 41 within U-shaped housing 40, which may be accessed, by removal of housing fasteners 49. Optionally, blades 45 may be removably positioned within U-shaped housing 40, and, such storage could be used to store replacement blades 45. Another aspect of the present invention is directed to a retrofit longitudinally split U-shaped housing 40 containing at least one blade 45, which may be detachably positioned parallel to the loop 12 or rotated about ± 45 degrees (not shown) around the longitudinal axis of loop 12 or mounted onto one of loops 12L or 22L of conventional shears to norm shears 100, as shown in FIG. 6.

[0042] FIG. 8a shows an alternative embodiment in which U-shaped housing 40 is integrated into first loop 12L, but that such first loop 12L is similarly longitudinally split, i.e., into two pieces (not shown), and may be fastened to or removed from corresponding first gripping end 12 of elongated member 10 by member fasteners 19. With first loop 12L, longitudinally split, U-shaped housing 40 is also longitudinally split, so that removal of member fasteners 19 and housing fasteners 49 enables removal of first loop 12L from first gripping end 12 of elongated member 10, and separation of the pieces (not shown) of first loop 12L. Similarly, such a configuration may be adapted for use with, second loop 22L and second gripping end 22.

[0043] FIG. 9 is an isometric of an embodiment of the U-shaped housing 40. The U-shaped housing may be constructed of a filled polymer, more specifically a polymer of but not limited to, polycarbonate, ABS or polypropylene with a fiberglass filler (GF) of 0-15 percent and may be pigmented or colored, with a fluorescent or low light pigment or coloring technique. Shown is the U-shaped housing 40 with an opening 47 for the insertion slot 46. Within the insertion slot are at least one blade 45 (two shown). The blade(s) 45 are loop section 40A and detachable section 40B where the detachable section 40B is separable in a similar manner as from the loop section 40A. When loop section 40A and detachable section 40B are fastened together by the bottom fastener(s) 49, the percussive surface 39 is at a desired thickness. The U-shaped member 40 is then placed against the outside of loop 12L or 22L, (not shown) where U-clip 40C is placed, from the inner loop 12L, 22L over and surrounding the loop 12L, 22L, surface and over the U-shaped housing 40 until the top fastener(s) 49 secure the U-clip 40C and encapsulate the loop 12L, 22L in channel 40D. In this manner multi trauma shears 100 may be formed by U-shaped housing 40 fastened to U-clip 40C such that loop 12L or 22L is releasably captured or encapsulated within the U-shaped housing 40 and U-clip 40C.

[0044] FIG. 10a shows another embodiment as a pivotable U-shaped housing 1040. The pivotable U-shaped housing 1040 is pivotably connected to the pivotable first gripping end 1012 at a distal point on pivotable first loop 1012L. The pivot assembly 1002 is shown using a hinge pin 1005 and a series of hinge ears 1010 where the hinge ears interleaf with a hinge ear

1011 that is integral with the first gripping end 1012. A releasable latch 1017 secures the pivotable U-shaped housing 1040 at the proximal end of the pivotable first loop 1012L enclosing the pivotable first loop 1012L. FIG. 10b shows the pivotable U-shaped housing 1040 released in a lateral direction to the first gripping end 1012 opening pivotable first loop 1012L. Lateral release of the latch 1017 of the pivotable U-shaped housing 1040 provides access to the inner portion of pivotable first loop 1012L for removably securing the pivotable multipurpose trauma shears 1000 on a loop, belt, rope, cable or hook or other object without limiting the available area within the pivotable first loop 1012L or compromising the functionality of the pivotable U-shaped housing 1040 for rendering fabric.

[0045] FIG. 11a shows an embodiment for a second loop 1122L with a perpendicular or lateral inwardly or outwardly pivotable loop section 1105. Hinge assembly 1110 may be attached at a distal point or a proximal point on the pivotable second loop 1122L and allows for rotation in either lateral direction from the second loop 1012L. Multipurpose trauma shears 100 may also include the first gripping end 12L as a separate construction attached to the first elongate member 10 including a loop section 40A which is shown in FIG. 11b as including a portion of the U-shaped member 40 and a substantial portion of first loop 12L. Detachable section 40B is removably secured to loop section 40A and contains at least one blade 45 and is molded as a continuous, single piece detachable construction.

[0046] FIG. 11b is an end view of the U-shaped housing 40 showing a longitudinal split that defines a loop section 40A and a detachable section 40B. Loop section 40A is an integral part of first loop 12L. Detachable section 40B allows for access to the blade(s) 45 for replacement. Detachable section 40B when properly oriented is removably secured to loop section 40A by one or more fasteners 49.

[0047] The above examples should be considered to be exemplary embodiments, and are in no way limiting of the present invention. Thus, while the description above refers to particular embodiments, it will be understood that many modifications may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. Multi-purpose shears having a distal end and an opposing proximal end to the user, the shears comprising:
 - a first elongated member having a first shearing end and a first gripping end opposed to the first shearing end, the first gripping end configured to be in contact with a user's hand;
 - a second elongated member with a second shearing end and a second gripping end opposed to the second shearing end, the second gripping end configured to be in contact with the user's hand, the first and second elongated members coupled to one another by a coupling element at a pivot location, wherein the first and second shearing ends move away from one another about the pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends away from another about the pivot location, wherein the first and second shearing ends move toward one another about the pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends toward one another about the pivot location; and
 - a bladed tool coupled to the first elongated member at a location between the first shearing end and the first grip-

ping end, the bladed tool configured to have an insertion slot generally oriented along an axis, the bladed tool including a blade within the insertion slot.

2. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, further comprising: a first loop at the first gripping end, the first loop configured to receive one or more of the user's fingers, wherein the bladed tool is coupled to the first loop; and a second loop at the second gripping end, the second loop configured to receive the user's thumb.

3. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the bladed tool further comprises a body having a first tool end and an opposing second tool end, the body including

a first portion coupled to the first elongated member and extending between the first and second tool ends; and a second portion separated from the first portion by a distance perpendicular to the axis and generally extends along the axis between the first and second tool ends to define the insertion slot.

4. The multi-purpose shears of claim 3, wherein the blade is oriented at an angle with respect to the axis between the first and second portions.

5. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the blade of the bladed tool further comprises a plurality of blades.

6. The multi-purpose shears of claim 3, wherein the bladed tool includes an opening in communication with the insertion slot at the first tool end, wherein the bladed tool is configured such that the opening faces the proximal end of the shears.

7. The multi-purpose shears of claim 3, wherein the bladed tool further comprises a percussive feature at the second tool end of the body, wherein the percussive feature has a radius of predetermined dimension.

8. The multi-purpose shears of claim 7, wherein the percussive feature has a thickness dimension between and including 6 mm-10 mm.

9. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the second elongated member further comprises a lift lip located at a distal end of the second elongated member, the lift lip including a recessed band cutting edge.

10. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the bladed tool is removably coupled to the first elongated member.

11. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the bladed tool is integrated with the first elongated member.

12. The multi-purpose shears of claim 1, wherein the bladed tool is made of a material having luminescent properties that cause the bladed tool to be visible in low light settings.

13. Multi-purpose shears having a distal end and an opposing proximal end to the user, the shears comprising:

a first elongated member having a first shearing end and a first gripping end opposed to the first shearing end, the first gripping end configured to be in contact with a user's hand;

a second elongated member with a second shearing end and a second gripping end opposed to the second shearing end, the second gripping end configured to be in contact with the user's hand, the first and second elongated members coupled to one another by a coupling element at a pivot location, wherein the first and second shearing ends move away from one another about the

pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends away from another about the pivot location, wherein the first and second shearing ends move toward one another about the pivot location in response to the user's hand actuating the first and second gripping ends toward one another about the pivot location; and

a bladed tool coupled to the second elongated member at a location between the second shearing end and the second gripping end, the bladed tool configured to have an insertion slot generally oriented along an axis, the bladed tool including a blade within the insertion slot.

14. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, further comprising:

a first loop at the first gripping end, the first loop configured to receive one or more of the user's fingers; and

a second loop at the second gripping end, the second loop configured to receive the user's thumb wherein the bladed tool is coupled to the second loop.

15. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the bladed tool further comprises a body having a first tool end and an opposing second tool end, the body including

a first portion coupled to the second elongated member and extending between the first and second tool ends; and

a second portion separated from the first portion by a distance perpendicular to the axis and generally extends along the axis between the first and second tool ends to define the insertion slot.

16. The multi-purpose shears of claim 15, wherein the blade is oriented at an angle with respect to the axis between the first and second portions.

17. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the blade of the bladed tool further comprises a plurality of blades.

18. The multi-purpose shears of claim 15, wherein the bladed tool includes an opening in communication with the insertion slot at the first tool end, wherein the bladed tool is configured such that the opening faces the proximal end of the shears.

19. The multi-purpose shears of claim 15, wherein the bladed tool further comprises a percussive feature at the second tool end of the body, wherein the percussive feature has a radius of predetermined dimension.

20. The multi-purpose shears of claim 19, wherein the percussive feature has a thickness dimension between and including 6 mm-10 mm.

21. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the second elongated member further comprises a lift lip located at a distal end of the second elongated member, the lift lip including a recessed band cutting edge.

22. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the bladed tool is removably coupled to the second elongated member.

23. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the bladed tool is integrated with the second elongated member.

24. The multi-purpose shears of claim 13, wherein the bladed tool is made of a material having luminescent properties that cause the bladed tool to be visible in low light settings.

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